

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

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R 131917Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4185

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 0167

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, SF, PA

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE MISSION TO PARAGUAY

REF: CAPE TOWN 0018

1. AN OFFICIAL SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE MISSION HEADED BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE VISITED PARAGUAY JANUARY 6-11. DURING THEIR STAY HERE, THE SOUTH AFRICANS MET WITH GOP OFFICIALS AND LEADING PARAGUAYAN BUSINESSMEN TO DISCUSS TRADE, PRIVATE INVESTMENT, AND A MULTITUDE OF PROPOSALS FOR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THEY ALSO PAID BRIEF VISITS TO ALTO PARANA AND ITAPUA, REGIONS TO WHICH THE GOP HOPES TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE ASKED TO FINANCE A VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TOTALING \$70 MILLION (\$29 MILLION IN THE ITAPUA AREA ALONE). TWO LOAN AGREEMENTS FOR A TOTAL OF \$10 MILLION WERE SIGNED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS TO HOUSE THE GOP

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FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SUPREME COURT. FOURIE SAID THE

OTHER REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED LATER.

2. COMMENT: THE PARAGUAYANS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO IMPRESS THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN VISITORS AND TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION. THE RESULTANT LOAN AGREEMENTS, WHILE DEMONSTRATING MUTUAL DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS, ARE CONSIDERED BY THE PARAGUAYANS TO BE RELATIVELY MINOR AND REPRESENT ONLY A PORTION OF THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS WHICH THE GOP HOPES WILL ACCRUE FROM CLOSER TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA.
BRIGGS

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